8/14/74

Dear Jon,

Herewith a carbon of my response to Rolling Stone's Walsh's letter to me. Thanks.

The irresponsibles have been up to their usual. One told Penthouse of this transcript and what I was doing with it before I completed the writing. This practically required that I respond to their expression of interest, quite encouraging over the phone. After they read the first ~~32/x~~ 2/3 of what I wrote.

I have just returned from New York. This is FYI because I do not spread these kinds of things around. They are long on the talk and short on the money. They are willing to print my underground book as I have it camera-ready. But their advance is less than the cost of setting type and making up.

Were this not discouraging enough, they will not give copies to Members of Congress. I would have to buy them and then pay the cost of distribution.

Their book-publishing manager appears to me to be a looser

I told him politely but pointedly that his offer could be interpreted as a cheap buy that would make him more vulnerable ~~xxx~~ to and less likely to resist sinister influences, to quote Haig, and that as an author who was also a publisher I took the offer as a measure of what I could expect of him and therefore was not inclined to accept it. Lesar and I have not finalized a decision but it seems likely that we will do an underground version as originally planned and then hope to be able to distribute when I can't use most of the major distributers because they have already gypped me out of thousands. All but one. He will distribute. He is in New York City and limits to that area.

Political developments leave us so little choice that tomorrow I will have to arrange to make and deliver two xeroxes <u>before</u> publication because of the state of the administration's efforts against the Freedom of Information law amendments.

Again FYI, Department of Justice has threatened a Ford ~~bxxxx~~ veto. There is Ford dynamite in the book, as in time you will see. At that time you may use.

I did not tell Rolling Stone this or more that I have on Ford (See Whitewash II for fun stuff) and I won't use in advance what I have on him in my Watergate draft.

Hasty thanks,